

League issues warning over Libya

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League warned on Friday against "ill-considered" action violating international law against member states Libya and Syria following fresh U.S. allegations that Tripoli is plotting "terrorist" acts. A spokesman for Chadli Klibi, secretary-general of the 21-member league, said in a statement that any such action would have "evil consequences." Without mentioning the United States, the spokesman said it had been hinted over the past few days that action might be taken against Libya or even Syria. "We wish ... to warn against any ill-considered action which would violate international law and rules and charters which the United Nations has helped draw up," the spokesman said.

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Crown Prince returns

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Arwa returned home Friday after a four-day visit to Morocco, during which Prince Hassan met with King Hassan of Morocco and took part in meetings of an African-Arab culture forum. In an address at the forum, Prince Hassan called for achieving a greater degree of harmony and cooperation among Arab and African nations and for opening channels of dialogue between them to strengthen ties of cooperation in all fields. Prince Hassan also highlighted the importance of cultural relations and the role of public organisations, institutions and universities in paving the way for meetings and exchange of expertise between Arab and African nations.

Holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All government departments and public institutions will remain closed on Thursday, Sept. 4, on the occasion of the first day of the Muslim New Year, according to an official communique issued by the Prime Ministry. The communique said that Sept. 4 will be the first day of 1407 Hijra year.

Official confirms Soviet withdrawal

MOSCOW (AP) — A senior Soviet official said on Friday the United Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan will involve 8,000 soldiers and will begin this fall with foreign reporters invited as observers. Further limited pullouts "are not excluded," the Kremlin, said Valentin Falin, chairman of the government news agency Novosti and a non-voting member of the Communist Party Central Committee.

Sudanese ministers arrive in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Sudanese Minister of Energy and Mines Adam Musa Madibou arrived in the Iranian capital, Tehran, Friday, on a visit of "special importance," Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency said Mr. Madibou was accompanied by Sudan's Acting Foreign Minister Farouk Al Rahman. Mr. Madibou told reporters that the aim of his visit was to "strengthen relations between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran in political, economic and cultural fields," according to IRNA.

Libya seeks U.N. debate on U.S. raids

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Libya formally requested Friday that the U.N. General Assembly discuss what it called "the explosive issue" of the April 15 U.S. bombing raids against Libyan targets. The General Assembly opens its 41st session Sept. 16. Libyan U.N. Ambassador Ali Fureikhi, in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, wrote that the item should be inscribed "in view of the important, pressing and urgent nature of this explosive issue."

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King and Soviet envoy discuss Mideast situation

Rifai, Vorontsov reiterate call for int'l conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein held talks Friday with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov on the current situation in the Middle East and Soviet-Jordanian relations.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Vorontsov, who arrived here Thursday on a two-day visit to Jordan, also conveyed to the King greetings from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The agency did not elaborate but added that the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

Earlier on Friday, Mr. Rifai and Mr. Vorontsov held talks and reiterated the Jordanian and Soviet call for an international conference on the Middle East. Petra said Mr. Rifai and the Soviet minister also discussed at length world issues and the latest developments in the Middle East.

The agency said the two sides agreed that a just and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict and the establishment of peace in the region could not be achieved except through an

international conference attended by all concerned parties and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Mr. Rifai and Mr. Vorontsov also "The Jordan Times learnt that the Jordanian side was highly satisfied with the outcome of the Soviet minister's talks in Amman and noted a "significant change" in the Soviet stand towards efforts to solve the Middle East conflict. Informed sources said the Soviet minister's talks here covered "means to arrive at effective mechanisms" to convene an international conference. The talks also indicated that the Soviet Union was "seeking common grounds with the U.S. over the Middle East towards an international conference," according to the sources.

discussed effective means towards convening such a conference, Petra added.

On the almost six-year-old war between Iran and Iraq, Mr. Rifai and the Soviet minister agreed on

the need for world nations, especially the big powers, to exert efforts to bring the war to an end. Mr. Vorontsov briefed Mr. Rifai on the Soviet Union's stand vis-a-vis the question of world disarmament and an end to nuclear testing and Moscow's efforts towards East-West détente, Petra said.

Also discussed by Mr. Rifai and the Soviet minister were Soviet-Jordanian relations and ways to promote cultural and economic relations.

The meeting was attended by Acting Foreign Minister Touqan Al Hindawi and Jordan's Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr. Vorontsov arrived in Amman Thursday evening from Syria via Ramtha. He said in a statement at the border post that he would discuss with Jordanian officials a number of world issues with special focus on the Middle East situation and means of developing Jordanian-Soviet relations.

Mr. Vorontsov said he was trying to familiarise himself with Jordan's position vis-a-vis various world questions. Mr. Vorontsov will complete his current tour in Algeria after concluding his two-day visit in Amman. Another Soviet envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, is also in the Middle East visiting, Egypt, Iraq and Tunisia.

League begins campaign for Mideast conference

WASHINGTON (R) — The Arab League has launched a new diplomatic campaign for a United Nations-sponsored conference to determine a Middle East peace agreement, the league's ambassador to the United States, Clovis Maksoud, said Friday.

Mr. Maksoud told reporters the campaign would get into full stride at the meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement in Harare this week and next and then concentrate on the U.N. General Assembly at its new session next month.

He said persuading the United States of the need for an international conference would be the major problem.

He said the major problems in persuading the United States of the need for a conference were its "obsession with Libya," "the disinclination of the secretary of state (George Shultz) to deal intensively with the problems of the Middle East" and its dogged support of Israel.

"The U.S. on this issue is still a prisoner of indecision, fluctuating between its undue strategic relation with Israel and the global priority of achieving détente (with Moscow)," Mr. Maksoud said. "Commitment to a U.N.-sponsored international conference would pre-empt

hardline approaches in the Middle East and put us back into expectation of a breakthrough that we have not had for a long time," he added.

The problem of Libya, accused again this week by Washington of supporting "international terrorism" (See page 2), was really marginal and was being used by the Reagan administration to divert attention from the basic regional issues, he said.

Washington has opposed convening an international peace conference, arguing that would give the Soviet Union a role it did not deserve because of an "unconstructive" attitude to regional peace.

The United States has agreed, under pressure from Jordan, to consider an "international context" for peace talks, but has refused to define what that might mean.

Mr. Maksoud said that only a regional peace accord would allow intransigent positions, such as Lebanon, the Gulf war and the civil war in Sudan, to be dealt with.

"There is a great deal of feeling (in the Arab World) that perhaps Middle East issues are no longer among the priority concerns of the international community," he said.

Soviet marshal says accord in Stockholm could help summit

STOCKHOLM (R) — The head of the Soviet armed forces on Friday offered the West a new concession on inspection of military activities in a bid to secure agreement at the European disarmament conference before it ends on Sept. 19.

Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, chief of the Soviet general staff, indicated that a successful conclusion to the 35-nation talks could help pave the way for a second meeting between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan.

Marshal Akhromeyev said Moscow was willing to allow foreign inspectors to check its military activities from the air as well as from the ground, but stressed that such checks would have to be carried out in Soviet aircraft, flown by Soviet pilots.

No inspections would be allowed in militarily-sensitive "closed areas" but Moscow was willing to agree that such exclusion zones should be kept to a reasonable size and that no noifiable activities should take place in them, he said.

Giving an example, he said no foreign inspectors would be allowed to tour the Soviet naval

bases in the Kola peninsula beyond Norway's northern border, but checks could be carried out on military exercises in other parts of the peninsula.

After addressing delegates, the marshal told a press conference: "I have been sent here because the Soviet government thinks the time has come to act swiftly and decisively to ensure that the conference ends successfully."

He agreed that a final accord at Stockholm would represent progress towards a new U.S.-Soviet summit.

West German delegate Klaus Citron welcomed the move but suggested the inspectors should use a neutral aircraft flown by a neutral crew.

"It is not the pilots who inspect but the inspectors ... I do not see anything wrong with our proposal," Marshal Akhromeyev said. He added that Moscow would never give foreign aircraft a licence to spy.

NATO diplomats complained there was no room for compromise by Moscow in the remaining weeks of negotiations once such a high-ranking figure had spelt out the policy.

French and U.N. officials discuss future of UNIFIL

PARIS (Agencies) — Officials from France and the United Nations began talks in Paris on Friday on the French government's demand to reexamine the role of the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond met the U.N. official responsible for peacekeeping, Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding, against a background of clashes between the force's French contingent and Lebanese militiamen.

Earlier Mr. Goulding went to the Elysee Palace to see President Francois Mitterrand's chief of staff, Jean-Louis Bianco.

France provides the backbone of the 5,600-man U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) which was sent to southern Lebanon in 1978 to supervise the withdrawal of Israeli troops after their first invasion and to help the Beirut government restore its authority over the area.

But the collapse of the Lebanese government, combined with the presence of pro-Israeli militiamen along the border and Lebanese and Palestinian resistance men to the north, has prevented UNIFIL from controlling more than a small patch of territory.

Pretoria under fire over police killings in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Opposition politicians and human rights lawyers attacked the government on Friday for going no further than ordering a routine inquest into Tuesday's bloody clash between police and blacks.

They said an inquest would not get to the bottom of the unrest in Soweto, the country's largest township located near Johannesburg, where at least 20 blacks were shot dead by security forces.

Deputy Information Minister Louis Nel said on Thursday a magistrate would hold an inquest into the incidents, during which security forces fired on residents fearing eviction because of a rent boycott.

Lawyers said the government was merely complying with the law as any unnatural death required an inquest.

There is disagreement over what caused the incidents, the worst officially reported since a state of emergency was imposed throughout the country 11 weeks ago.

The government said the clash began when a handgrenade was thrown at the police but residents



His Majesty King Hussein on Friday confers with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov (Petra photo)

Trade deficit falls

AMMAN (Petra) — Deficit in Jordan's trade balance fell from JD 346 million in the first half of 1985 to JD 277 million during the same period in 1986, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Friday. A CBJ spokesman said

remittances of Jordanians working abroad increased from JD 196 million in the same period to JD 216 million in 1986. Jordan's imports dropped in the first half of 1986 to JD 394 million compared to JD 503 million during the same period in 1985, the spokesman said. Jordan's exports, however, also dropped to JD 107 million in the first half of 1986 compared to JD 117 million during the same period in 1985, the spokesman added.

W. Bank leader denounces Israeli plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior Israeli official from the Tel Aviv-based strategic studies department has disclosed an Israeli plan for evicting some 700,000 Palestinians from their homes and confiscating their land in preparation for annexing them, Jordan Television said Friday.

Commenting on the new plan, a prominent Palestinian economist and politician, Mr. Said Kana'an from Nabulus, said both the Likud and Labour parties "aim to confiscate the land and evict the inhabitants, because they (the Israelis) want land without its people."

However, Mr. Kana'an said, Labour "argues that if Israel is to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip, then it means that a demographic imbalance between Arabs and Jews will be inevitable."

Mr. Kana'an said the Israeli plan "aims to achieve the Zionist plan of confiscating Arab land and the plan's implementation started by the end of the 19th century."

Israeli Deputy Prime Minister David Levy said on Wednesday Jewish settlements in Israeli-occupied areas were continuing to expand and expressed the hope that further settlements would be created.

Mr. Goulding flew to Paris after Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said it would be absurd to keep U.N. troops in the area unless their role was reexamined and they were given increased resources to control local militiamen.

A government spokesman reiterated on Thursday France's position that it would not unilaterally pull out from the nine-nation force.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' office on Friday issued a rare statement of support for UNIFIL and warned of instability if any of the 5,600 soldiers are withdrawn.

Israel has long been critical of UNIFIL, claiming that the force is ineffectual against anti-Israeli guerrilla activity in Lebanon.

Mubarak: Amman talks covered Palestinian issue

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak, who is trying to reactivate Jordanian-PLO peace moves, returned Thursday after a brief meeting with His Majesty King Hussein and said they discussed the Palestinian issue and efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

Mr. Mubarak told reporters upon his arrival that no decision had been made yet on the date to meet Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and that such a decision would come only after the signature of an agreement on a four-year old border dispute.

"My discussion with King Hussein was connected to the Palestinian issue, and I am making the most effort with Israel and other sides to reach a solution," Mr. Mubarak said.

"We are attempting all efforts with all sides and hope to reach a result... the PLO must attempt efforts on this subject... this is very necessary," he added. Egyptian officials said talks also covered the Iran-Iraq war and the situation in Lebanon.

Mr. Mubarak was accompanied by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, who met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh separately from the Hussein-Mubarak summit.

Iraqis raid Farsi Island amid new Iranian threats

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iraq sent its warplanes on Friday for the second day running to raid a radar station used for surveillance of the vital Kharg Island oil terminal, according to war communiques from Baghdad.

The attack was made as Iran renewed threats to block the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic southern gateway of the Gulf.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whose warplanes have been raiding the Kharg terminal on an almost daily basis since Aug. 15 last year, had vowed that the terminal would be wiped out if the Iranians made good their threat to close the strait.

An Iraqi military spokesman said over Baghdad Radio that Farsi Island, 100 kilometres south of Kharg, harboured a radar station that was "used to monitor air traffic over Kharg."

Farsi Island was blasted and set ablaze in the raid, said the spokesman.

The attack was carried out at 3:40 p.m., the raiding Iraqi jet

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DUBAI DAILY AS OF SEPTEMBER FIRST

As of September 1, 1986 our normal daily service to Dubai will be resumed. All passengers now booked for Dubai via Abu Dhabi are requested to contact the numbers listed below, to change their reservations.

CENTRAL RESERVATIONS 678321 (From 7:30a.m. - midnight)

SALES OFFICES/ JORDAN	
AMMAN	Abdaly 663 524/7
	Housing Bank 678 168
	InterContinental Hotel 644 266/642 152
	Salt Street 639 351/2
	Shababoun 621 229/621 192
	Al-Wahdat 771 154/778 651
AQABA	Holiday Inn Hotel 314 477
IRBID	243 201/2
ZERKA	983 672/984 026

Mngabe revokes trade pact with S.Africa, page 8

Monday Surprise
The grand opening
of
Jordan
Supermarket

Abdoun, the circle just before Orthodox Club
More details tomorrow

alia

Five-year plan allocates JD 292 million to Karak

KARAK (Petra) — Jordan's 1986/90 five-year development plan provides for spending JD 292 million, nearly 9.4 per cent of the total allocations in the plan, on investments and development schemes in Karak Governorate, according to Karak Governor Salem Al Qudah.

He said that this huge investment is clearly not in proportion to number of people in Karak region who only form 4.2 per cent of the entire population of the Kingdom, but added that it is needed to promote industrial and mineral projects such as

potash and phosphate in the southern governorate.

The new plan gives due care to agriculture which is the main source of income for the local population, but also provides for developing shale oil, promoting tourist sites and attractions and expanding Mu'ta University which is situated within Karak Governorate. Mr. Qudah explained. He said the plan has allocated funds for promoting social and public services, housing and sports and increasing vocational training facilities.

Dakhqan to inaugurate major agri-development projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ceremony will be held in the south eastern parts of the country on Sunday to inaugurate projects undertaken by local companies which will develop state-owned land leased to them earlier this year.

The ceremony will be attended by Agriculture Minister Ahmad Dakhqan who said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that leasing the land is intended to promote a national drive to ensure food security in the country. The project is bound to increase the production of cereals, lean meat and other agricultural products and to promote animal husbandry, the minister said.

The government is providing incentives to the local companies and is leasing the land at nominal prices of 100 fils a dunam per year. The government will

purchase the crops at subsidised prices over a period of five years, he added. In addition, the minister pointed out that developers and investors will enjoy exemptions from duty and other taxes on equipment and installations brought in or set up for processing agricultural products. Also, he said, the government provides free technical supervision and advice to these companies.

To date, the government has leased 200,000 dunams in the Disi district to local companies and is in the process of leasing another 40,000 dunams. Mr. Dakhqan said the government will, in the future, help develop the infrastructure of these areas prior to providing basic services for people wishing to settle in the area of the projects.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Decree okays consular appointment

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing a cabinet decision to appoint Mr. Tawfiq Abu Khleil as honorary Sri Lankan consul in Amman.

Higher Education Ministry moves

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Higher Education has moved to its new offices at the former Yamouk University Liaison Office in Jubeiha. A spokesman for the ministry said Friday that the departments of scholarships and fellowships, supplies, personnel and higher education development will function from the new offices as of today. The spokesman said that the community colleges department will operate from Princess Alia's Demonstration School in Shmeisani as of the same date. Accreditation of certificates will continue to be handled at the old ministry building in Wadi Saqra.

Dudin meets W. Bank representatives

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin conferred with two representatives of the Jenin and Nablus regions in the West Bank to discuss the needs of the Arab inhabitants under Israeli rule. Mr. Fayyad Jarar, member of Parliament representing Jenin constituency, briefed the minister on the situation in the Jenin area and spoke about the need for establishing councils in villages around Jenin. The minister later conferred with Nablus representative in Parliament, Mr. Mufid Mubaslat, who also presented a report on the Nablus region's needs of services.

Swedish delegation visits Baqa'a

AMMAN (J.T.) — The foreign relations committee of the Swedish Parliament, currently on a three-day official visit to Jordan, Friday visited United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) installations in Baqa'a refugee camp, including schools, shelters, the health centre and the supplementary feeding centre. Director of UNRWA Affairs in Jordan, Per Olof Hallqvist, briefed the guests on UNRWA in Jordan and the camp.

Bridge traffic returns to normal

AMMAN (Petra) — Most of the pilgrims from the occupied territories who performed this year's pilgrimage in Mecca have now returned home, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). As a result, travel across the bridges to and from the West Bank has now returned to normal, the PSD said.

Iraqis raid Farsi Island

(Continued from page 1)

buy arms for Iraq."

"Our patience is limited... we ask the Gulf states not to aid the Baghdad regime if they want to see the end of the war," he said. "We can close the Hormuz."

Mr. Rafsanjani and the Iranian prime minister also said on Friday 1,000 battalions are ready to move to the battlefronts for a "final offensive" to end the six-year-old war against Iraq, reported Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

"The great offensive of the Muslim forces of Iran... is not far off," Iran's prime minister, Hussein Musavi, was quoted by the agency as saying. Iranian forces were prepared throughout the fronts to launch a large scale attack, he added.

Mr. Rafsanjani called for "a massive dispatch to the fronts of trained volunteer forces," the agency said.

The 1,000 battalions claimed to be ready to move into battle represent a force of about 350,000 men. This is additional to 250,000 revolutionary guards already at the front and to the 400,000-strong Iranian army, indicating a massive force of more than one million men is ready for battle.

The numerical superiority gives Iran an advantage. But this is

negated by Iraq's virtually unchallenged supremacy in the air, a larger and more modern armoured force, and successive lines of well-prepared defences along the 1,180 kilometre frontage.

In Peking, meanwhile, Iran's oil minister Friday denied a U.S. report that China has become his country's largest arms supplier.

Gholam Reza Aqazadeh also said Chinese officials told him that China has agreed to reduce its oil exports in line with the decision to cut back on oil production by the organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"We deny any sale of arms to Iran from China," Mr. Aqazadeh said at a news conference.

A U.S. official in Washington said Tuesday that Peking has become Iran's biggest arms supplier, helping Tehran overcome Iraq's overwhelming air superiority.

Mr. Aqazadeh, who arrived in China on Thursday, declined to say from where Iran gets its arms, but said it has no trouble finding suppliers. He said he did not discuss the subject of arms with Chinese officials.

Chinese Foreign Ministry officials have said repeatedly they are not ready to comment on the arms allegations, but China has denied in the past that it supplies arms to Iran.

Dajani, visiting Iraqi minister continue talks on transport issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport Rajai Dajani and his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Jabbar Al Assadi, currently in Jordan for talks on enhancing bilateral cooperation in transport-related fields, Friday inspected the Aqaba-based Ports Corporation.

The Iraqi minister was briefed on the corporation's activities and future plans for developing maritime transport in the Kingdom. The two ministers later called at the Iraqi Jordanian Land Transport Company (IJLTC) and Al Rafidein bank, a joint Jordanian-Iraqi venture.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Thursday held talks with the visiting Iraqi minister on means to further improve bilateral relations and increase the scope of cooperation in the field of transportation, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Both Mr. Rifai and Mr. Assadi, reviewed ways and means of facilitating transport procedures between the two countries, Petra added.

Later Thursday, Mr. Dajani and Mr. Assadi co-chaired a meeting of the general assembly for the IJLTC. The assembly meeting ratified the company's administrative and financial reports for the second half of this year. During the meeting, the Jordanian and Iraqi ministers urged the assembly to draw up future plans aimed at modernising the present fleet of trucks operated by the company to keep



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Thursday holds talks with Iraqi Minister of Transport and Communications Abdul Jabbar Al Assadi (Petra photo)

in line with market requirements. Another plan to define the company's operational capacity was also discussed during the meeting which was followed by a meeting by the company's board of directors.

New chairman appointed

The board appointed Jordanian Ministry of Transport Under Secretary Mu'taz Al Bilbesi as the new chairman of the board. Iraqi Ministry of Transport Under Secretary Ghassan Radwan was appointed deputy chairman and Mr. Jamil Ibrahim took the post of general director and Mr. Suleiman Hababbeh as his deputy.

Jordan calls on UNRWA to resume distribution of rations

VIENNA (J.T.) — Jordan has urged the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to implement a United Nations General Assembly resolution which calls on the agency to resume the distribution of food rations to Palestinian refugees.

The resumption of food distribution is urgent for needy families, especially those in the occupied Arab territories. Under Secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Ahmad Qatanani said in a speech to UNRWA's advisory council annual meeting in Vienna.

In his speech, Dr. Qatanani reviewed the general conditions of refugees and demanded that a report by J.N.R.W.A.'s commissioner, general be amended to include the volume of assistance provided to refugees by

Arab countries hosting them. He said UNRWA should draw up an annual budget that takes into consideration the basic needs of refugees.

The meeting is an annual gathering of the council's members to review the commissioner's report before it is submitted to the U.N. assembly in its autumn session. The report covers the period between July 1985 and June 1986 and outlines the conditions of Palestinian refugees inside and outside the occupied Arab territories, the services they receive from UNRWA and the agency's budget for the coming three years.

The advisory council groups representatives of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Belgium and Japan.

Education Ministry prepares for new scholastic year

AMMAN (Petra) — Preparations for the 1986/87 scholastic year in Jordan, the provision of textbooks for students and facilities at schools were discussed during a general meeting held at the Ministry of Education on Thursday.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Ahmad Bashairah, the ministry's secretary general, who called on directors of education departments in the governorates to provide schools with all their needs prior to the start of the scholastic year, scheduled for Sept. 8. He said directors of education should also analyse and study the results of the twelfth stage admission examination in order to work out plans for promoting the teaching process in the coming scholastic year. Dr. Bashairah also urged the directors to provide utilities and facilities for extra-curricula activities.

Addressing the meeting was the ministry's director of personnel who said that there are sufficient numbers of elementary and preparatory teachers for the coming year, but he noted that the ministry is still short of teachers in certain specialisations at the secondary level.

The director of the school curricula and textbooks department said that there are sufficient quantities of textbooks for the compulsory stage but that certain textbooks are not available for the secondary stage.

Directors of education departments in the provinces later took part in a discussion on educational problems and difficulties they are facing and they reviewed matters connected with the maintenance of school buildings. They also discussed the work of supervisors and evening classes for adults.



Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan chairs a general assembly meeting of the General Union of Voluntary Societies on Thursday evening (Petra photo)

GUVS assembly renews executive council's mandate

AMMAN (Petra) — A general assembly meeting of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Jordan has renewed a mandate of its present executive council chaired by Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, and the 17-council members will now serve for two more years.

The renewal came during an assembly meeting held on Thursday evening and attended by Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan and representatives of various voluntary and charitable societies in the Kingdom.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Haj Hassan paid tribute to

voluntary and charitable societies in Jordan's two banks and said that their work is essential for promoting social welfare services in the country. Voluntary and social work can achieve greater success if it is well organised and conducted under the umbrella of GUVS, the minister said.

Also addressing the meeting was Dr. Khatib who said that despite its limited means and resources, GUVS has been able to provide valuable services to the Jordanian community. The executive council, he said, pledges to pursue efforts for developing charitable work in the Kingdom.

Husseini expects TCC to be private by 1988

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Communications Minister Muhieddine Al Hussein Friday said he expected the complete privatisation of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) to be completed between the end of 1987 and the beginning of 1988.

"At the rate things are developing, I can say that TCC's conversion from a government-owned institution to a commercial entity will need one or one and a half year from now," Mr. Hussein, who also is chairman of the TCC board of directors, told the Jordan Times.

The TCC, a government-owned corporation has had a monopoly over all telecommunications services in the Kingdom since it was established under a law in 1971.

The minister said that the first stage towards changing the corporation's status will be through converting it into a public shareholding company with all the shares to be owned by the government.

Mr. Hussein said he did not expect the government to relinquish 100 per cent of the shares. "Since the government will own all TCC shares prior to its total privatisation, it will decide on the total percentage of shares it wishes to maintain or sell," said Mr. Hussein, a staunch supporter of privatising the corporation.

However, the final picture of dividing the shares between the public and private institutions remains up to the government, the minister continued. "This cabinet is willing to privatise TCC and to sell shares to the private sector, but another government might decide to keep all the shares to itself," he added.

Last March, TCC's board of directors endorsed a decision recommending the conversion of the TCC into a public shareholding company to pave the way for its complete privatisation.

British Telecoms, which carried out the feasibility study free of charge, stands good chances of being named the

consultant to restructure the TCC into a commercial institution before the corporation is completely privatised.

The idea of privatising TCC was called for by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who requested the ministry to conduct research on the viability of privatisation.

On Wednesday, the cabinet decided to transform a number of public organisations into share-holding companies operating on a commercial basis to open the way for the private sector to own part of the capital. The cabinet's statement said transformations should be done "in a stage-by-stage process" after intensive studies and that the programme of priorities should be worked out while the means of implementation should be studied.

The cabinet communiqué did not mention names of any projected public companies at stake, but Mr. Hussein affirmed that the TCC was one of the institutions. The issue of converting the TCC into a commercial entity first arose at the end of 1984 and drew mixed reactions from public and private sector officials.

Mr. Hussein, together with other supporters of privatisation, has maintained that increased profitability, more efficiency and an improvement in telecommunications services are the main motives for privatising the corporation. Opponents of the idea contend that before such a step is taken, organisers should study the extent to which the private sector can take part in holding shares.

"The TCC is a huge empire with lots of investments including paid up capital, assets, liabilities and turnover, so if the private sector



Muhieddine Al Hussein

can raise enough funds to take a large share in the corporation then its conversion could be justified," commented a senior economist, who preferred anonymity. There is no official figure on the total of the TCC's investments, but sources close to the corporation put the figure at over JD 260 million.

Fast mail to Iraq

In another related development, the Ministry of Communications Thursday announced that it intends to add Iraq to a list of countries with which it maintains a 24-hour fast mail delivery service.

Under secretary at the ministry, Mansour Ibn Tarif, said that the central post office in downtown Amman will include Iraq in the express mail system as of next Monday. Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, is in charge of carrying both the incoming and outgoing mail.

The ministry launched the system on July 1 and is currently operating the service with the following countries: Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Egypt, West Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Bahrain.

Mr. Ibn Tarif told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ministry is currently negotiating with five other foreign countries for inclusion in the service. He did not name the countries.

Princess Basma opens community, social services centre in Nuzha

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday opened a community centre at Nuzha district of Amman to provide social welfare services to residents in the district.

In a speech at the inauguration ceremony, Princess Basma underlined the importance of community centres in Jordan as she said these centres aim to direct citizens' potential towards useful schemes benefiting the local community.

The Princess said that the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF), which is chaired by Princess Basma, is continuing its endeavours to set up community centres and to promote their services. Princess Basma commended the close cooperation between the public and private sectors in promoting social welfare work and thanked Amman Municipality for providing a piece of land for the new centre at Nuzha. The Princess also expressed gratitude to the Amman Chamber of Commerce which provided funds for equipping the centre.

Another speaker at the ceremony was Mr. Ahmad Aqailah, vice president of Care for the Children Society, which is also chaired by Princess Basma. He said that the centre was set up in

Nuzha after a careful field study conducted by the QASWF on the area's needs for social welfare services. The centre, set up on an area of three dunams, contains a kindergarten accommodating 100 children, a vocational training

unit, and a medical centre offering services to women and children, Mr. Aqailah said.

The ceremony was attended by Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh and other officials.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday chats with a student attending a secretarial course at a community and social services centre in Nuzha (Petra photo)

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Consultations go on

EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak's visit to Amman on Thursday and his talks with King Hussein represent another link in the on-going consultations between Egypt and Jordan aimed at unifying Arab ranks and confronting challenges that the nation is facing and threats posed by the Arabs' common enemies. The talks naturally covered the Iraq-Iran conflict, bilateral ties and current Arab affairs. The two leaders exchanged views on developments in the Arab region and looked into proper means for tackling them. The talks represent a new tendency by countries closely related and determined to work together towards avoiding protocol and delving directly in what is useful, meaningful and that which can achieve the best results. The talks also came as a slap in the face for Israeli attempts designed to poison relations between Egypt and its Arab World through continued propaganda campaigns designed to keep Egypt isolated from the rest of the Arab Nation. Close cooperation between the two leaders remain as a guarantee for strong and fruitful cooperation.

Al Dustour: On the Arab course

KING Hussein's talks with President Mubarak of Egypt on Thursday came at a crucial time when the Arabs are facing stepped up challenges and escalation of threats and dangers from their enemies. The talks between the two leaders fall within a framework of continued consultations and coordination. These consultations are to be regarded as a very important and positive step required for reestablishing a strong united Arab front. Mubarak's visit and his discussions with the King are bound to bolster Jordanian-Egyptian relations still further, and help in the all-out effort for unifying Arab ranks. The talks are a continuation of those started by the two leaders in Alexandria and a manifestation of their determination to pursue a course leading towards solving Arab problems. No doubt the two leaders have given their proper attention to the Palestine question and the Gulf conflict, which is being escalated at present by the Iranian rulers. We hope those talks will lead not only to a strengthening of bilateral relations but to a stronger unified Arab stand in the face of hostile powers and common threats.

Sawt Al Shaab: Another meaningful step

EGYPTIAN-Jordanian talks held in Amman Thursday represent another step towards meaningful action designed to stimulate joint Arab action in the face of the current circumstances and challenges. Egyptian-Jordanian relations have been marked by a climate of cooperation and brotherly coordination aimed at unifying Arab ranks and achieving solidarity among Arab countries. The two leaders are keen on helping Iraq in its war with Iran, are concerned with rallying the Arabs in the face of the common dangers, and are determined to pursue close cooperation benefiting the Arab Nation. Both countries have been active on the regional and international fronts, seeking a just and durable solution for the Palestinian question, and both have been helping each other in matters that concern the security of the Gulf region and saving the Arab Nation from further splits and further setbacks. Jordan has not only been keen on strengthening ties with Egypt alone but also with Syria, Iraq and the rest of the Arab World, a policy which this country believes is the best guarantee for a strong Arab stand.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Who benefits from Arab division?

ISRAELI propaganda machine is nowadays geared towards preventing Egypt from escaping isolation imposed on it by the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. Israel radio and other mass media are involved in what is clearly a bid to keep Egypt as close as possible to Tel Aviv, and away from the Arab Nation. The campaign, being launched on the eve of a projected meeting between Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria, is being waged clearly as a blackmail against Egypt. Tel Aviv realises that Cairo cannot abandon its call for an international conference for resolving the Middle East problem and cannot abandon its efforts for establishing a just and durable solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is almost certain that Peres will not carry to the projected meeting any positive proposals that could appeal to the president, but he would rather insist on normalising Egyptian-Israeli relations if Israel's consent is to be won for arbitration over Taba. It is almost certain also that Mubarak will not carry with him any proposals with which to appease the Israeli leader, and will certainly not agree to persisting Israeli demands for returning the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv unless Israel ends its presence in Lebanon. President Mubarak realises the Israeli intentions and therefore is expected to take steps to thwart Tel Aviv's evil designs.

Al Dustour: Non-Aligned Movement summit

FOREIGN ministers of non-aligned countries open a meeting in Zimbabwe today to prepare the ground for a summit of their leaders. The meeting comes at a crucial time when the Arab and African nations are confronting numerous challenges, foremost of which is the on going Iraq-Iran conflict, involving two of the Non-Aligned Movement members. In view of the negative consequences this war has on the movement, which has so far failed to end the conflict, the ministers are bound to be faced with a very embarrassing position. Also they would have to confront the situation in the Mediterranean where the United States is stepping up threats for launching yet another attack on Libya, another member of the Non-Aligned Movement. We believe that the threats are made to coincide with the meeting, and a challenge to the non-aligned countries which failed to show proper action to the first aggression on that African country. There are other numerous questions affecting non-aligned states in Asia, Africa and Latin America and we hope that the representatives of the movement in Zimbabwe will first try to reach consensus on ending their internal differences before embarking on meaningful discussion to tackle other problems.

Biased editorial policies marked Western press' coverage of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982

By Dr. Badran Badran

The following article is the last in a three-part series on the handling of Middle East issues and conflicts by four leading Western newspapers during the years 1980-1982. Parts one and two appeared in Wednesday's and Thursday's issues of the Jordan Times. The writer is assistant professor of journalism and mass communications at Yarmouk University.

THE year 1982 proved to be one of the most "newsworthy" of the three years of the study. During that year, Israel invaded Lebanon and occupied its capital forcing the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to relinquish its strategic stronghold in that country. Internationally, the Falkland/Malvinas islands situated in the southern part of South America suddenly became the centre of the world attention as Argentina and Britain fought a war for the control of those islands. Helmut Schmidt was ousted by the West German "Bundestag" and replaced by Helmut Kohl. Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev died in 1982 and was succeeded by Yuri Andropov who became the Communist Party leader. Moreover, an earthquake hit northern Yemen leaving more than 2,800 dead and thousands homeless.

During 1982, *The Washington Post*, *Le Monde*, *Il Corriere della Sera* and *The Times* of London published 2841 editorials, 1020 of which dealt with foreign affairs. *The Post* published 43 editorials which discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict, or 18.5 per cent of its total foreign editorials. *Le Monde* published 44 editorials about this conflict, or 14 per cent of its total foreign editorials. *Corriere* and *The Times* published 20 and 37 editorials respectively, or 17.5 per cent of their totals.

In spite of an appeal from the U.S., Israel staged a second air attack on the following day and later embarked on a full-scale invasion of Lebanon.

The two most important developments in the Middle East during this year were Israel's withdrawal from the last part of Sinai and its return to Egyptian sovereignty and Israel's massive invasion of Lebanon. This last chapter, as narrated by the four papers, reveals how controversial and unpopular Israel's adventure into Lebanon has been in the eyes of American and European editorial writers. Following is a brief account of the events which preceded the invasion.

One June 4, Arab gunmen in London shot and severely wounded the Israeli ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov. The attempt was claimed by anti-PLO faction headed by renegade Palestinian leader Abu Nidal. Although the PLO denounced the attack, the Israeli government blamed it and ordered a massive air strike against Palestinian targets in Lebanon. Israel's action violated a de facto cease-fire negotiated by U.S. Ambassador, Philip Habib, between Israel and the PLO. After the Israeli strike, Palestinian forces reacted by launching rocket attacks against Israeli settlements in northern Israel in which one person was killed.

In spite of an appeal from the U.S., Israel staged a second air attack on the following day and later embarked on a full-scale invasion of Lebanon. After several days of intense combat in which several thousand civilians had been killed, the Israelis were within a few miles of Beirut. Most Palestinian positions in the south had been captured but there were still many pockets of resistance in Sidon and Tyre. On June 14, after heavy fighting, Israeli forces captured Beirut airport.

On the diplomatic front, the United States vetoed an urgent Security Council resolution condemning Israel's refusal to withdraw from Lebanon and rejected European calls for a similar condemnation of Israel at the NATO summit meeting in Bonn. On June 7, the *Post* reflected the official American position saying:

"Unquestionably, the Israelis have a right to protect their people. The British have just gone 8,000 miles to assert the same principle. Many observers, including the Reagan Administration, had understood that Israel could not be expected to let its border towns be indiscriminately shelled."

The Post's position was contradicted, however, by Anthony Lewis, the *New York Times* columnist who wrote in his column "Abroad at Home" the following, different account:

"In terms of keeping northern Israel free of artillery attacks, that arrangement has been astonishingly successful. For nine months not a single rocket or shell was fired by PLO gunners into

Israel. When Israeli planes bombed Lebanon on April 21 for the first time since the truce started, the PLO did not respond. When there was another bombing on May 9, there was a limited response: about 100 rockets that Israel said caused no damage or casualties. Then, after the massive Israeli bombing last week, the PLO responded with full-scale barrages. In short, the cease-fire kept the Galilee safe until Israel bombed Lebanon."

Aggression, invasion of a sovereign country, the violation of international law, these are not considered to be relevant concerns with respect to the situation in Lebanon. In fact, Lebanon need not even be considered a country with legal rights, according to *The New York Times*.

The Italian daily published an editorial by Dino Frescobaldi on June 9 in which he was skeptical of the outcome of the Israeli invasion. He said:

"Peace in Galilee" demonstrates how many times a story can repeat itself. Once again a government is victim of tragic illusion: that of seeking peace and security by means of war. Four bloody wars, all ending in military defeat for the Arab armies, have not solved the Middle East conflict... Israel can defeat and humiliate any Arab army but cannot eliminate the Arab World. She can occupy the old castle at Beaufort and all the camps of the Palestinian refugees but cannot physically eliminate from the map the problem of 4.5 million Palestinians both inside and outside the occupied territories unless she intends to commit mass genocide."

Le Monde's reaction was predictably critical of Israel and the United States. "Nothing of that which happened," wrote the Parisian daily, "could have taken place if the U.S. hasn't equipped and over-equipped the Israeli army." *Le Monde* also took issue with the American silence over Israel's violation of the arms export agreement which prohibits the use of American arms for offensive purposes.

The Times, for its part, discussed the political consequences of the invasion urging the Israelis to take political risks and to change their policy towards the Palestinians. It wrote: "The Israelis from their position of position of military strength must take political risks too. It is no good hoping, like Professor Milson and Mr. Sharon, that they can continue to control the West Bank by cultivating a collection of Uncle Toms. There is a flavour of contempt for the Palestinians in the way that Mr. Begin and Mr. Sharon — not to mention Mrs. Meir in her day — talk about their needs and aspirations."

Once again a government is a victim of tragic illusion: that of seeking peace and security by means of war. Four bloody wars, all ending in military defeat for the Arab armies, have not solved the Middle East conflict. Israel can defeat and humiliate any Arab army but cannot eliminate the Arab World — *Il Corriere della Sera*

In a second editorial, *The Times* asks "Does Israel want peace with the Palestinians?" It went on to say:

"Yes, in the sense that she wants Palestinians to settle down wherever they happen to be and stop bothering her. She is even willing to let them run their own affairs, under her supervision, in two areas where they are highly concentrated: the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But is Israel willing to live in peace with the Palestinians as a people, according to them the same recognition that she rightly and insistently demands for herself? Is she willing to liberate Lebanon from the Palestinian burden which is destroying it, not by a war against all Palestinians in Lebanon, but by seeking to accommodate them within Palestine, even if that means giving up part of the historic 'Land of Israel'?" To that question, as to the corresponding question about the attitude of the Palestinians to Israel, the answer remains unclear."

As evidence began to mount that Israel's declared intention for the invasion was only a cover for its real aim of defeating both the PLO and Syria and establishing a pro-Israeli government in Beirut, editorials, especially *The Post's* began to question Israel's credibility. As the siege of Beirut intensified and the Israeli naval, aerial and land bombardment of the capital continued unabated despite the mounting number of casualties among civilians, editorials appearing in the four papers began to adopt a stance of unambiguous condemnation of the Israeli policy. For example, *The Post* wrote on June 25 the following: "We are forced to

"understanding" for its reasons. In many instances, editorialists would stress the "destructive" role of the PLO which supposedly created a "state within a state" in Lebanon and would highlight news reports about Lebanese civilians welcoming Israeli tanks with jubilation. Some *Times* and *Post* editorials have gradually accepted the Israeli line that the invasion "created possibilities" in the region which could open the road to peace, especially after the exit of PLO guerrillas from Lebanon.

Commenting on the American media's press coverage of the invasion, Eric Hooglund wrote: "Basically, the American press has accepted the Israeli position without any serious questioning. What Israel has done has been in the interests of peace. Aggression, invasion of a sovereign country, the violation of international law, these are not considered to be relevant concerns with respect to the situation in Lebanon. In fact, Lebanon need not even be considered a country with legal rights, according to *The New York Times*, which is probably the single most influential and authoritative newspaper in the United States: Peace is the issue, not Lebanon. There is no Lebanon or plausible plan to revive it. A world that tolerated its disintegration, occupation by Syria and collapse into quasi-feudal baronies, speaks nonsense when it pleads for Lebanese sovereignty or 'territorial integrity'."

A review of the coverage by the



Dr. Badran Badran

5, 1982)

"Israeli Jets Bomb Guerrilla Targets in Reprisal Strike" (*New York Times*, June 5, 1982)

"Israel Retaliates as Jets Hit Beirut" (*Chicago Tribune*, June 5, 1982)

Other headlines erroneously identified the Falangist Party in Lebanon — which is supported by some of Lebanon's Maronites, who are in turn one of Lebanon's Christian sects — with Christians in general. For example, stories about Falangist-Israeli cooperation have been headlined: "Israel and Christians Surround PLO" (*Washington Post*)

"Christians Join Lebanese War, Shell Guerrillas" (*Baltimore Sun*)

Generally speaking, the tone of the editorials, especially those written by the *Times* and the *Post*, and to a lesser extent *Corriere*,

appeared frequently, including: "tough, vulnerable, lonely, oasis of freedom, bastion of democracy, a true ally and dependable."

The leaders and political personalities most frequently mentioned in the editorials were Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, U.S. President Ronald Reagan and former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Other prominent regional leaders noted by the editorials were H.E. Majesty King Hussein, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, the late Lebanese President-designate Bashir Gemayel, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd. Among the Palestinians, the newspapers emphasised former West Bank Mayors Fahd Qawasmeh, Mohammed Mithneh and Karim Khalaf, and PLO "foreign minister" Farouq Qaddoumi. Former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and former Defence Ministers Ezer Weizman and Moshe Dayan were the most mentioned Israelis.

In conclusion, two points regarding this study should be pointed out. First, the four newspapers surveyed in this study have not looked at the region in any light other than that of the political and military aspects of Arab-Israeli relations. Their editorial coverage of the area has consequently been crisis-oriented, with the periods of war and periodic active diplomacy occupying the lion's share. No editorials covering cultural, artistic, scientific or social events



A second conclusion is that the Israelis have been unforgettably bloody. There is no conceivable goal that would justify the civilian casualties that a further, full-fledged assault on the PLO and Syrians in Beirut would surely bring. That would be the ultimate barbarism in

a campaign in which the wide-spread slaughter of civilians has undermined Israel's claim to moral superiority, once its richest political asset in the West — *The Washington Post*

several conclusions, of which the first is that the Israelis have misled the world about the purposes of their invasion... Its deeper now revealed intent is to take advantage of a favourable regional opening and of Ronald Reagan's inattention or quiet consent, whichever it is — to impose a Begin-style Palestinian solution. That means destroying the Palestinians as a movement and dispersing them as individuals. A second conclusion is that the Israelis have been unforgettably bloody. There is no conceivable goal that would justify the civilian casualties that a further, full-fledged assault on the PLO and Syrians in Beirut would surely bring. That would be the ultimate barbarism in a campaign in which the wide-spread slaughter of civilians has undermined Israel's claim to moral superiority, once its richest political asset in the West."

In the meantime, Israeli Prime Minister Begin attacked the French news media for its prolonged exposure of Israel's military operations and the civilian casualties and suffering brought about by its bloody invasion. Mr. Begin described these media as showing an "anti-Israeli attitude, which is also anti-Jewish." *Le Monde* responded to these accusations describing Mr. Begin as "an intellectual terrorist" who considers any criticism of the Israeli government as an anti-semitic act which can only come from an enemy of Israel.

"Throughout the period of the invasion, most of the editorials which discussed it have tried to balance criticism of Israel with a certain measure of

major U.S. newspapers and some European ones of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon reveals an important finding. In general, editorials written on this subject have been more balanced in their presentation of facts than the daily news stories published by these newspapers. News reports have generally accepted the Israeli rationale for the attack and subsequent Israeli press communiqués describing details of the operation. Pro-Israeli bias can be manifested in a variety of ways which are part of the newspapers' daily editorial policy. By leading with Israeli statements and quoting Israeli sources more frequently, by the selection and placement of war photographs which equate between the suffering of a few Israelis and thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians, by discussing the military aspects of the invasion and ignoring the details of the human suffering and the horror stories committed by Israeli troops and their Lebanese allies and by the acceptance or rejection for publication of opinion essays and "letters to the editor" which are critical of the invasion and/or the government position regarding it.

The use of headlines for news stories and editorials is also an important indication of the newspaper's emphasis and its bias towards one of the war's parties. The initial focus of headlines in this study's sample presented the invasion as a reprisal action for alleged PLO terrorism:

"Israel Invasion Brings Quiet to Galilee" (*Washington Post*, June 8, 1982)

"Israel Raids Beirut in Retaliation" (*Baltimore Sun*, June

have been offensive to Arabs. Many of the essays contained over-simplified stereotypes of Arabs, some are quite demeaning and dehumanising. For example, Palestinian guerrillas were often described as "terrorists, extremists, insidious and intransigent." The Palestinian people were often described as "violent, alien, cynical, resentful, dispossessed, bitter and survivors."

But is Israel willing to live in peace with the Palestinians as a people, according to them the same recognition that she rightly and insistently demands for herself? — *The Times*

It should be mentioned that the four papers differentiated between the PLO and Palestinians in general in their editorials, although in some cases they would acknowledge the PLO's assertion that it represents the Palestinians or categorise it as merely a "representative among others."

The editorial tone was equally critical of Israeli policies and leaders, although no critical words or statements directed against Israelis or Jews in general were detected. Israeli policies were often described as "arbitrary, offensive, contemptuous, suspicious, violent, foolish, inflexible, resistant and repressive." On the other hand, many neutral or favourable characterisations of Israel

in the area were found during the three years of the study. The absence of these themes from these elite papers' coverage of the Middle East may be a decisive factor in distorting the image American and European readers have of the region.

Second, one of the more significant results of the study is the absence of any significant reference to the role played by the Soviet Union in the Middle East. Although the Soviet role is emphasised in other conflict zones throughout the world, the *Times*, *Post* and *Le Monde* were almost oblivious to the role played by this superpower in the region, despite its influence on Syria, the PLO and other countries. Only *Corriere* gave the Soviets modest editorial attention from 1980 to 1982.

As this summary of the research shows, the four elite papers sampled for this study were in general agreement among themselves on most of the basic characteristics of editorial coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This level of agreement lends credence to Merrill's theory of elite press performance. This theory views the elite press in the world as having many similar characteristics which transcend geographic boundaries and political systems. It further postulates that each one of these elite place it in a class of its own. Stylistically, *Le Monde* is more ideological and philosophical. *Corriere* is more literary and colourful, the *Post* is decidedly more professional and pragmatic, and finally, the *Times* is better written and more comprehensive than the rest.

Housing, office rents drop as many buildings stand empty

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "There must be a drop in rent for housing," said a delighted resident of the Fifth Circle area. "I have asked my landlord to reduce my annual rent by JD 100, and he agreed!"

A representative of an international company holds the same opinion: "When my landlord heard I was about to move my offices to a new location, he immediately offered to slash JD 1,000 off my annual rent!"

Landlords do not like to admit it, but a limited, random survey conducted recently by the Jordan Times indicates that, for the time being at least, these observations are correct, and that there is a prevailing decline in housing and office rents in Amman. (Other cities in the Kingdom are not included in this survey).

Newspapers are flooded with "for rent" advertisements and announcements by people seeking to sell their apartment or office buildings, having failed to generate enough revenues to service loans obtained to build these projects.

The reason behind the decline in rents in Amman lies in the old demand and supply formula. When there is too much supply, there is a decline in prices.

Good news for tenants is always bad news for landlords.

"All of a sudden, everybody wants to invest in housing and office buildings," said Omar Qabbani, owner of a three-story apartment building in Jabal Hussein. "Let's see now how they can fill them," he said, pointing indifferently to the empty apartment building opposite his office on Akka Street.

He believes that the over-supply of apartment and office space has forced a general reduction in rents, varying in degree from one area to another.

"Under pressure from lending banks, many of those who borrowed massive sums to build housing projects are now seeking to sell," Mr. Qabbani said. "There is only so much the market can take."

Over the last decade or so, letting housing and office units proved to be a lucrative business for investors and developers. Hundreds of buildings were erected in and around Amman, when the demand was strong and rates were high. In consequence, this led to the current over-supply, exacerbated by recently-established companies

which deal in leasing houses for middle-income citizens.

Government housing

Throughout the same period, the government's role was limited to providing housing units for government employees and other low-income citizens at reasonable rates.

The Housing Corporation, established in 1966, has so far carried out 74 low-rent housing projects in the Kingdom. These provided 14,495 housing units at a cost of JD 120 million. According to a report published recently, the corporation has further plans within the government's five-year plan (1986-90) for the construction of 10,040 units including 1,180 units on which work had begun before the plan. These will cost the government JD 112.8 million, according to the report.

Of those, 10,040 housing units to be built by the government 3,435 housing units will be in Amman, 2,855 in Zarqa, 1,865 in Irbid, 100 in Mafrag, 775 in Balqa Governorate, 340 in Karak, 90 in Tafleh and 580 in Ma'an.

The corporation's director general Shafiq Zawaideh said that the government housing projects have had no substantial impact on the over-supply in the housing market and the consequent decline in rent.

He explained that private sector investors were providing housing and office space for high-income citizens and that a shortage still exists in housing for low income groups and government employees.

"We still need much more housing space for low-income citizens than the government can afford to spend," Mr. Zawaideh told the Jordan Times. He added that the private sector did not show any interest in building housing for low-income groups.

Mr. Zawaideh explained that in practice, the housing units the government is building are allocated for people who were living with their parents or relatives "because they cannot afford private sector rents." Mr. Zawaideh said the government has no official statistics about rents and the demand and supply, but said that there has been a decline of about 30 to 40 per cent in rental rates in general. He predicted a further decline in rents over the next two years and urged private sector investors to cater to the needs of people with an

income of less than JD 100 per month.

Views from economists

Economists interviewed by the Jordan Times expected the current decline in rents to continue, at least for the next two years.

Dr. Fahed Fanek said that although he agreed there was a considerable decline in rents, he did not think it had reached 30 to 40 per cent. He said that in the seventies, rents were hiked due to the influx of rich Lebanese fleeing the civil war. "Since then, there has not been a tangible increase in rents," he added that, "if one takes the inflation rate into consideration, it can be said that in fact, the real value of rents has gradually declined."

Dr. Fanek said the present decline in rents is a rectification of an abnormal situation and not a problem requiring a solution. In his view, "the government has allocated more than it should have to finance low-income housing projects and gave housing an exaggerated priority."

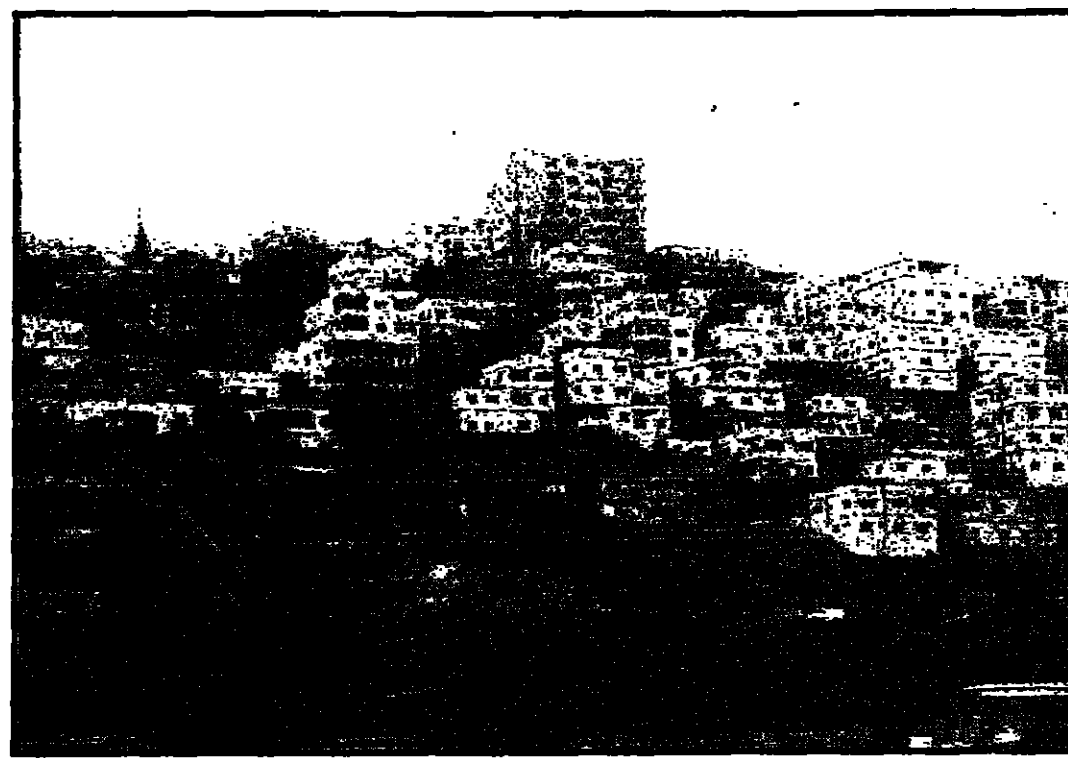
He insists that the supply in housing was no more than 5 per cent higher than demand, and that these (houses) are empty for a period not exceeding 6 months in most cases.

"We are living in a disinflationary period that is bound to reduce prices on almost everything," Dr. Fanek said. Giving an example, he said that vegetable prices are 70 per cent of those in 1980, and that the cost of living in June this year was less than it was in the same month last year.

Mr. Riad Khouri, a Beirut-based economist and businessman agreed with Dr. Fanek's analysis but said that the current decline in rents would continue until the building boom has subsided or reduced vis-a-vis the accelerated demand in the market.

Mr. Khouri said that the region's economic crisis had a direct impact on the demand for private-sector housing and the consequent decline in rental prices. "What we have at hand is the economic boom's hangover," said Mr. Khouri in reference to the current economic recession.

He said that the over-supply in the housing market was mainly limited to the high-income housing and that demand was still high for low-income housing in the Kingdom. "There is ample supply for a certain type of housing," he



Multiple storey buildings spread over the mountains of Amman amid declining business and decreased demand — (File photo)

said, adding that although low-rent housing was economically viable, "those who build houses are rich people who generally like to deal with people of their own class."

Public opinion

Citizens interviewed by the Jordan Times were divided on the reasons behind the apparent decline in housing and office rental rates. Some attributed the trend to the overall world economic recession and to the decline in the number of investors in major projects in the Kingdom. Many believe that a greater number of people would be seeking to live in Jordan — mainly Jordanian expatriates and other business-oriented people from neighbouring countries — if the economic situation was better.

"The economic situation is forcing young people to stay at their parent's house because they cannot afford independent housing," Mr. Fares Rusheidat, a 28-year-old pharmacist said. "It's not only a question of tradition... It's also a question of whether you can be economically independent or not."

Mr. Rusheidat agreed that although this is not a new problem, he was, in a way, happy with the current situation. "If rents are going down, then let

them go down even further. I don't think that (apartment and office) owners should become millionaires overnight," he said. He gave examples of landlords asking "astronomical figures" when he was seeking an apartment for rent. "It is simply ridiculous," Mr. Rusheidat said.

Ms. Aida Mansour, an engineer with a private company, said she was in favour of having "a certain limit" on rental rates, although, she continued, "this would be a very difficult thing to achieve." She said the overall economic recession was partly responsible for the over-supply in rental housing space, and the subsequent decline in rental rates.

"From my personal observation, I think that rents are considered one of the highest in the world, relative to Jordan's per capita income," she remarked. "With the present economic situation, I just can't understand how people are still capable of paying their rent. It's a miracle."

Others held the opinion that the glut in the rented housing market had hardly anything to do with the economic recession, which, they said, had been prevailing for several years. They attribute the present situation to sheer over-supply and investors' disproportionate response to the demand in the Jordanian market. They believe the trend would eventually have to be reversed by

the accelerated increase in demand that follows population growth, added to the expected influx of Jordanian workers returning from the Gulf region due to the economic slump in general and the decline in oil prices in particular.

"Now that the apartments and offices available for rent are empty," said a real estate agent, "the prices will normally go down, and many will stop building apartments they know may remain empty."

"Eventually," he continued, "there will be less new space and an accelerated increase in demand. Then, rates will gradually go up again." He said it was very hard to predict how low the rates would go or whether the current trend would last for long.

A fraction of those interviewed by the Jordan Times, mainly apartment and office building owners, did not agree that there was any considerable decline in rents and that what had been said was an exaggeration or a misrepresentation based on isolated examples. They were not immediately able to substantiate their assertions.

Making a rough estimate, a real estate agent put the ratio of tenants to landlords at 50 to 1. "We can conclude that for the time being," he said, "the number of those who are happy with the trend, is much higher."

Software industry slowly changes stance on copy protection

By Catherine Arnst
Reuter

BOSTON — The computer software industry and its main corporate customers have long been at loggerheads over the issue of copying programmes, but the customers are slowly beginning to get their way.

Lotus Development, major publisher of software programmes for personal computers, announced this month that it planned to allow its biggest corporate customers to make unlimited copies of its programmes under certain conditions.

The company also removed copy protection for all software sold to the U.S. government.

Lotus' closest competitor, Ashton-Tate, went even further shortly afterwards when it announced that it was removing copy protection from all its products for all customers.

The third of the big three software publishers, Microsoft, gave its customers leeway to make copies last spring.

The unauthorised copying of programmes, usually referred to in the industry as software piracy, has long been a major concern of software publishers.

Personal computer software is published on floppy discs and most programmes have a piece of computer code written into the disc that causes the programme to self-destruct if a copy is attempted.

Publishers inserted the protective code to prevent software packages from being as easily copied as records or cassette tapes, with the resultant loss of revenues.

But even with the code, piracy is considered a major problem by the industry. Company executives have estimated that for every software product sold, between two and 10 copies are available.

An entire industry has developed around breaking the copy code as well. "There are a number of programmes out there at \$50 a pop that can easily copy Lotus 1-2-3 (the company's best selling spreadsheet programme)," said Robert Lefkowitz of the California consulting firm Infocorp which specialises in microcomputers.

Outside the United States, where there is little enforcement action available, the situation is far worse.

George Debaque, a deputy assistant secretary for electronics at the U.S. Department of Commerce, recently reported that "foreign distributors of U.S.-manufactured software report piracy ratios of 250 pirated copies of a software programme to one legitimate copy."

Debaque said distributors estimated that 80 per cent of the software sold in Brazil is pirated, worth more than \$33 million annually, and 90 per cent of the software sold in Southeast Asia, excluding Japan, is copied illegally.

Lotus and Ashton-Tate have led

the charge against piracy and both have aggressively prosecuted users they suspected of copying programmes.

But increasingly large corporate customers are seeking the removal of copy protection codes for their own convenience.

The copy protection code can make the programme more difficult to use by interfering with other legitimate computer functions, at times even causing the computer to lose data or malfunction. The code also makes it cumbersome for large companies to transport files among groups of employees.

Most of the smaller companies in the intensely competitive software industry already have discarded copy protection as a selling point to win large corporate customers.

Earlier this year the Association of Data Processing Organisations, an industry trade group, dropped a longtime effort to achieve industry standards for copy protection because of objections from corporate users.

Within the past year, copy protection has come in contention with a newer concept — site licensing.

Under site licensing, a customer pays a hefty fee for a so-called "golden disc", essentially a master programme from which an unlimited number of copies can be made for one location.

The big three publishers have all said they are completely against site licensing, but all are putting plans into place that come very close to the dreaded idea of unlimited copies.

"We will not go toward any kind of site license," Ashton-Tate chairman Edward Esber told the company's annual meeting recently. "We will maintain the dogma of charge per user."

Both Lotus and Ashton-Tate have sought to emphasise the service aspects of their plans rather than the licensing portion. Under the Ashton-Tate plan, users who already own some Ashton-Tate programmes can receive upgraded versions, without the copy protection, for \$45.

Announcing the plan, executive vice-president Roy Folk said: "We are concerned with the increase in illegal copying of microcomputer software and intend to vigorously enforce our copyrights. Yet, we are encouraged by our corporate customers' efforts to devise plans to deter software piracy."

Under the Lotus plan, customers can purchase unprotected copies of the company's newest software if they agree to buy at least 100 programmes and if they give proof of an enforceable anti-piracy policy.

Customers can also receive copies from a master disc running on the customer's mainframe computer, with the company charged for each copy that is made.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Saturday — Aug. 30, 1986

8:30 Check it out

Howard Bannister, a harassed supermarket manager who dreams of a better life beyond the checkout, runs a light ship — despite a tidal wave of employee inefficiency.

9:10 The Lancaster — Miller Affair

Part 3

Famous but desperate they move to Miami, where Chubbie grows disillusioned as Bill's wife refuses to divorce him. Into their lives walks Haden Clark, an American author. Fascinated by Chubbie, he moves in with them to write her life story.

10:20 Feature film

The Girls in the Office

The young girls test their dreams of love, money and power against the world of big business, where there's no room for innocence...

Starring:- Barbara Eden
David Wayne
Susan St. James

Sunday — Aug. 31, 1986

8:30 Charlie and Company

9:10 A Planet for the Taking

Who Needs Nature

Trained seals, bullfrogs, experimental animals, pets — we exploit animals in many different ways, and yet we seem to have a real affection for them. This paradoxical relationship, the impulse to love, the desire to dominate animals — are explored in this episode.

10:20 Dallas

Twelve Mile Limit

Monday — Sept. 1, 1986

8:30 Growing Pains

"Silce of Life II" Jason is ecstatic over the news that wife Maggie may be having another baby. Ben is ecstatic that brother Mike is his slave for the weekend and Carol is enchanted with Richie's romanticism.

9:10 Moonlighting

10:20 Crown Court

Regina vs. Lord

Tuesday — Sept. 2, 1986

8:30 Music Box

9:30 Alfred Hitchcock

An Unlocked Window

10:20 Magnum

Double Jeopardy

Wednesday — Sept. 3, 1986

8:30 Three's Company

Jack Goes the Distance

When Biff Bower insults Furley at the Beagle, Jack gets into the argument and settlement is to be determined during a boxing match between Jack and Biff?

9:10 Ripley's Believe It Or Not

The fascinating story of how the original manuscript of "Alice in Wonderland," one of the world's great classics, which brought \$70,000 at auction, was written for a real ten-year-old named Alice; a blind master carpenter, an armless mother who drives with her feet and other remarkable people who have triumphed over their handicaps; mysterious sea stories; and unusual insects are among the highlights of this episode.

10:20 The Moonstone

Ep. 2

At the instigation of Rachel's cousin, Franklin Black, Sergeant Cuff is called in to investigate. The evidence leads to the implication in the theft of Rosanna Spearman, a young maid at Verinder Manor, who was once sentenced for stealing. When the unfortunate girl discovers that she is a suspect, she commits suicide, and soon Cuff's investigation focuses on Rachel herself.

Thursday — Sept. 4, 1986

8:30 Carol Burnett

9:10 Other World

Ep. 2

10:20 Feature film

A Case of Deadly Force

Starring:- Richard Crenna
John Shea
Dylan Baker

The story is based on the true story of a lawyer's three-year legal investigation into the shooting to death of a hospital worker by police officers.

Friday — Sept. 5, 1986

9:10 Best Seller

Testimony of Two Men

10:20 Play Of The Week

A Crack in the Ice

Private Postnikov is on sentry duty outside the Peter and Paul Fortress on the banks of the River Neva, St. Petersburg, Russia, in the winter of 1826, when he hears cries for help from a drowning peasant. Against all his training, Postnikov deserts his sentry-box to rescue the drowning man from the river.

Serpentine symbol of evil is, worshiped each year

By Mayank Chayya
The Associated Press

SHIRALA VILLAGE, India — This is the time of year when serpents, viewed as a symbol of evil throughout much of the world, are venerated in India as a symbol of life, strength and good luck.

It is the August festival of the cobra god Nag, and a time for snakes to be rounded up to be worshiped, pampered and kissed. Toddlers play with snakes and devotees kiss the non-poisonous varieties. Women pray to snakes to have them conceive sons.

Vendors rent snakes and elderly peasants pose with their snakes for formal portraits.

In Bihar state, Hindus celebrate with snake boats and floats. People in Calcutta worship the serpent goddess.

In Uttar Pradesh, people immerse sacrificial currency in rivers to ward off snake bite. In Punjab, offerings are made to black snake statues to keep serpents away.

But the festivities in this village of 17,000 people in Western Maharashtra state, a 14-hour drive south of Bombay, are among the most exuberant.

In preparation for the festival, villagers caught 500 snakes, more than 150 of them cobras. The fete in early August attracted 20,000 devotees and tourists.

One of the celebrants, Natham Sakpal, 65, said he has worshiped snakes since he was 15.

"I have mistakenly stepped on cobras three times in my field and I have never been bitten, because of my devotion," he said while stroking a fat rat snake.

Outside the temple, Jinappa Kable, 32, played with snakes and told a rapt audience tall tales about serpents — about young Krishna subduing a 12-headed serpent, then riding triumphantly on its many golden hoods.

He also told of snakes possessing the richest gems in the world, their subterranean kingdom of fabulous wealth and about the women of the naga snake people, famed for their seductive powers.

"I bow to those snakes that perpetually, eternally circumbulate the earth and heavens and live in space," he said, quoting an ancient hymn.

After temple prayers, the village became a carnival. The rat snakes were rented as props at

photo studios. Rambunctious young men posed with garlands of snakes, some seven feet (2.3 m) long, while sitting astride a shiny motorbike in front of a backdrop of the Taj Mahal.

Villagers believe the cobra, a fertility symbol, can give long life and bless a couple with children. Sudha Pathak, a young housewife, blushed as she said, "I have no children and I pray for a son."

Her family has caught a snake, fed it, paraded it, prayed to it and chanted to it in its earthen pot, hanging from a tree in their front yard.

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Syrians triumph in horseshow contest

By Samir Janakat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Friday praised an equestrian contest which took place between Syrian and Jordanian teams at the Bisharat Riding Club.

In a statement to the Arabic daily Al Rai and the Jordan Times, the King expressed his satisfaction at the three-day event which was capped by the equestrian contest and his pride in the contestants.

King Hussein paid tribute to the Syrian team and described the players as excellent and expressed hope that the Jordanian team will also achieve higher standards of performance.

The match was patronised by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and was attended by

a number of Royal family members, in addition to a number of senior officials and audience.

The first match, which took place between below-16 contestants from both teams, was won by the Syrian team. The Jordanian team included Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Al Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Abbas Ibn Ali.

The above-16 match was also won by the Syrian team. At the end of the match, Queen Noor presented the winners with cups and medals.



His Majesty King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor attend the horseshow at the Bisharat Riding Club (Abu Sinan photo)

On Thursday, after the tense excitement of the first day's showjumping activities in the event got off to a happy relaxed start.

There to watch six of their children participate — Their Royal Highnesses Princess Haya, Prince Ali, Prince Hamza, Prince

Hashem, Princess Iman and Abeer, were the King and Queen.

Also present were Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces, General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, and Their Royal Highnesses Princess Alija, Prince Ali, Princess

Wijdan, Prince Asem, Princess Sana, and Princess Majda.

The arena was filled with horses, and ponies of all shapes and sizes. The first event was to judge the best turned out horse and rider.

All the children had worked hard for this event, particularly the Royal children and their friends Joel, Peter and Andrew Goddard, Karys Segoring, Zeinab and Noufa Nasser who had been grooming their mounts and preparing their tack all morning under the guidance of their teacher Mrs. Jill Goddard.

Next followed a series of races which were not only fun for the participants but also for the crowd as well who urged the riders on with great enthusiasm. The first race was the sack race in which the riders galloped their ponies to a certain point, at which they then dismounted climbed into a sack and jumped the rest of the way back to the finishing line pulling their surprised mounts behind.

Prince Abdullah wins Jordan Rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Friday won Jordan's '86 National Rally Championship when he drove his Opel Manta to victory in the Danish-Jordanian Dairy Company Rally.

Competition was extremely rough throughout the 250-kilometre race which had 12 special stages, extending about 66 kilometres, and spread over three rounds.

The breath-taking moments of the event came in the ninth stage when Nabil Karam narrowed the gap with Prince Abdullah to nine seconds in overall standing but the Prince kept up his lead in the last three stages by boosting his points to 10 from the originally 12 points needed. Amer Bilbeisi, co-driver of the Prince, was an added advantage to the Prince's victory through expert driving and navigating.

Only 16 cars completed the rally from the original 28 entered



His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah and co-driver Amer Bilbeisi in their victorious Opel Manta 400 (Abu Sinan photo)

Friday's event, Nabil Karam/ Ali Bilbeisi came second in an Opel Manta (49:23 minutes); George Haddad/ Fawzi Sawalha ranked third in a Toyota Celica G.T. (49:36 minutes), and in fourth place came George Khayyat/ Keith Ferry in a Nissan 240 R.S.

(51:18 minutes). Prince Abdullah finished in 48:48 minutes.

In overall standing Prince Abdullah scored 166 points followed by George Khayyat (114.5), Nabil Karam (107) and Haitham Al Mufti (83 points).

Kasparov leads in chess championships

LONDON (AP) — World chess champion Garry Kasparov said Friday he was satisfied with his one-point lead against former champion Anatoly Karpov as their title match prepared to move from London to Leningrad for its second half.

The two Soviet grandmasters played 12 games in London, with Kasparov, 23, gaining 6½ points to 5½ for the 35-year-old Karpov. The title will go to the first to win six games or reach 12½ points during the remaining 12 games in Leningrad, though Kasparov retains the title in the event of a 12-12 tie in points.

"I'm happy with my one-point lead. The struggle will be very difficult but I hope to keep my

advantage in Leningrad," Kasparov told the Associated Press Friday.

On Saturday there will be a closing ceremony for the London half of the match and on Sunday the players and their delegations fly to Leningrad.

Kasparov won two of the London games against one for Karpov, and there were nine draws. A win scores a full point, a draw a half-point for each player.

In the first games Kasparov dominated play, holding easily when he had the disadvantageous black pieces, though he missed a winning continuation in the second game.

He won game four after gaining a significant advantage in the early

middle game, eventually winning a pawn. He advanced his queen's rook pawn to within two squares of promoting to a queen, and Karpov resigned without resuming play in the adjourned position.

But Karpov hit back immediately in the fifth game, to equalise the score by outpreparing and outplaying Kasparov, in a Gruenfeld opening.

In the seventh game, Karpov missed a chance to go ahead after setting up a dangerous kingside attack. He hesitated at the crucial moment and the champion saved his position with a surprise rook move. "It was a Houdini-like escape," commented British master Malcolm Pein.

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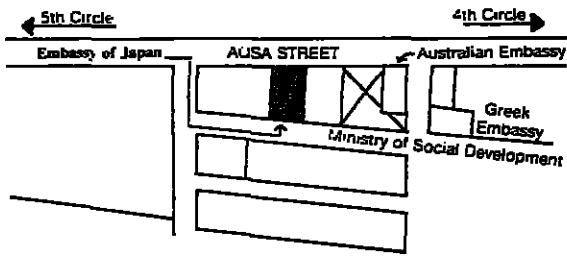
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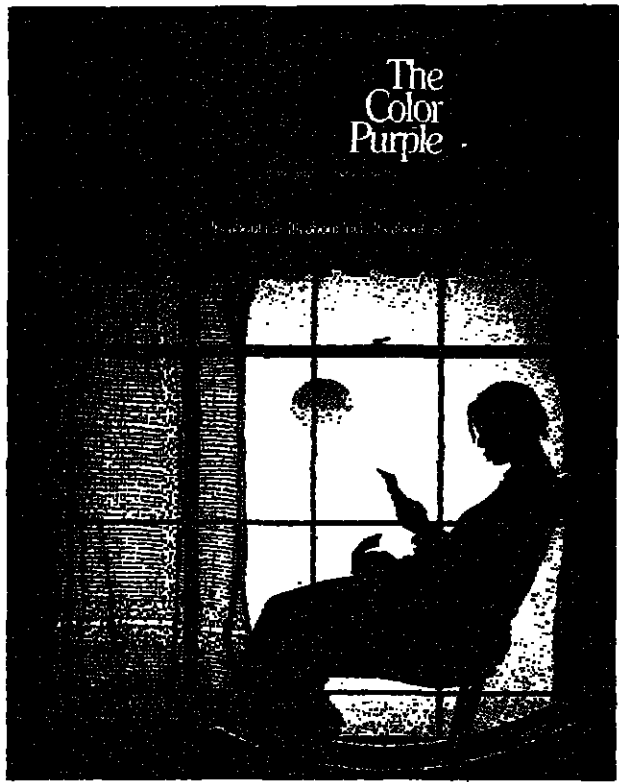
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Mugabe to revoke trade pact with South Africa

HARARE (R) — Prime Minister Robert Mugabe said Friday a trade accord which Zimbabwe signed earlier this month with South Africa would be scrapped as part of Zimbabwe's full support for international economic sanctions against the white-led neighbouring state.

"The decision to implement sanctions will override that (trade) agreement. It is clear," Mr. Mugabe told a two-hour news conference in the Zimbabwe capital Harare.

Under the accord, dating back to the colonial days of white-ruled Rhodesia, South Africa and Zimbabwe give preferential treatment to each other's goods.

Mr. Mugabe, whose landlocked nation is heavily dependent on South African transport routes and trade, appealed to the international community to help Zimbabwe and other black-ruled southern African nations should Pretoria's stance against them for backing the trade embargo.

On Wednesday, South Africa halted a three-week border search of trucks carrying Zimbabwean and Zambian exports. The move had been widely seen as a reprisal against the two nations for their vocal backing of punitive sanctions to force Pretoria into abandoning its apartheid racial segregation policies.

Earlier this week South Africa said that, to show how dependent the country was on Pretoria, it would unilaterally publish details of the trade pact which Zimbabwe signed while Mr. Mugabe was at a London Commonwealth mini-summit lobbying for anti-apartheid sanctions.

Mr. Mugabe described the situation in South Africa as getting

worse and worse all the time. He said Pretoria had "accepted that human beings can die like flies" and expressed concern that Western nations such as Britain, the United States and West Germany with large investments there were not applying pressure to bring an end to apartheid.

The South African question, fuelled by Tuesday's deaths of at least 21 blacks in running battles with security forces in Johannesburg's Soweto township, is top of the agenda of a summit of the 101-nation Non-Aligned Movement beginning here on Monday.

In Pretoria, South Africa published the latest amendments to the trade agreement which it said Zimbabwe had wanted to delay until after the Non-Aligned summit.

A spokesman for South Africa's Department of Trade and Industries told Reuters: "We had to publish the amendments because there are importers and exporters who conclude contracts on the basis of this agreement."

The accord was first drawn up in 1964, he said, and it stipulated that either country must give six months notice before pulling out.

"We haven't received any formal notice from the government of Zimbabwe... we will honour our commitment and I have no doubt the government of Zimbabwe will do so. It's a

responsible government," he said.

He declined further comment on the Zimbabwean decision, saying: "Until we've received official notice, we cannot react on the basis of press conferences."

Mr. Mugabe has already stated his determination to comply with sanctions adopted by six Commonwealth nations which include severing air links, withdrawing consular facilities and halting imports of South African steel and other specified products.

He said the international community could help by providing markets for Zimbabwe's goods now being sold to South Africa, offering alternative sources of vital raw materials and machinery and by providing aid for the upgrading of the Mozambican sea route, at present a frequent target of South Africa-backed insurgents fighting the Maputo government.

He reiterated the need for an "African Defence Force" to help southern Africa's frontline states, which are at the forefront of black Africa's fight against Pretoria and its rule over Namibia (South West Africa), to defend themselves against military attacks by their neighbour.

South African commandos bombed alleged guerrilla targets in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana in May killing at least three people and wounding 15 others.

Mr. Mugabe denied what he called a rumour that Indian troops and others from Non-Aligned members and the Commonwealth would be brought into defend the frontline states — Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Colombo peace talks reach final stage

COLOMBO (R) — Moderate Tamils and the Sri Lankan government Friday put the final touches to a package of limited autonomous powers for Tamils in an attempt to end the island's ethnic conflict.

Sources at the peace talks told Reuters that Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) leaders held two rounds of talks with President Junius Jayewardene totalling over four hours Thursday.

They were due to hold another round before leaving for south India Saturday.

"It is still premature to say something sweeping, that a breakthrough is possible. We can say the talks were useful but a number of matters remain to be settled," one official said.

These included land settlements, constitutional issues affecting devolution of power and the powers to be given to provincial councils.

They are at the core of Mr. Jayewardene's plan to satisfy the demands of minority Tamils to run their own affairs and thus end a murderous three-year conflict which has claimed more than 4,000 lives.

The official said it was clear there would be another round of talks. He said a decision on whether it would be held in New Delhi could be reached by the end of the day.

Washington talks yield no progress towards summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Soviet deputy foreign minister says his country is "not interested in an empty summit" and that preparatory talks with a high-level U.S. delegation failed to achieve much progress.

Anatoly Adamishin's statement on Thursday indicated Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev was still unwilling to set a date this year to meet President Ronald Reagan in Washington, as the leaders agreed to do last November in Geneva.

"It has to have some results, concrete results," Mr. Adamishin told reporters. "We are not interested in an empty summit."

The U.S. side responded with a terse statement saying the talks on regional issues were not designed for negotiations and had been conducted in a "constructive and businesslike" way.

Among the topics covered were the war in Angola between the Cuban-backed government and pro-western rebels and relations

between the Soviet Union and Israel.

A U.S. official said other topics included the wars in the Gulf and Afghanistan and developments in Southeast Asia and the Middle East. The talks yielded "no miracles, no breakthroughs," the official said.

"There was an agreement these talks would be confidential," State Department spokesman Pete Martinez said, "so we will not enter into the substance of the discussion...."

Mr. Adamishin stressed a summit meeting "has to be productive" before the Soviets would set a date. "We have to decide yet whether the summit would take place."

He described his talks with the U.S. delegation headed by Under-Secretary of State Michael H. Armacost as "an exchange of views."

Mr. Adamishin said he could not provide any details of the talks.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q—These days, everybody seems to play all jumps as being preemptive. We would appreciate some assistance from you in clearing up this maze.—P.N., Richmond, Va.

A—All these preemptive actions spring from a group of duplicate players who believe it is more important to disrupt the enemy auction than it is to bid their own cards constructively. That might be all right in tournament bridge circles (although even there you will get a considerable difference of opinion), but if you try it at rubber bridge you had better have a solid standing in the community.

Our basic philosophy is the same at both rubber bridge and duplicate. As far as the opening bidder is concerned, only a jump shift is forcing; jump rebids in his own suit and jump raises of responder's suit are invitational. Responder is free to pass if he has a minimum response, but he should go on to game with the slightest excuse, especially if vulnerable.

When it comes to responder's jumps, the modern tendency is to differentiate between jump raises of opener's first-bid suit, jump raises of his second suit and jump shifts. As in opener's case, a jump shift is unconditionally forcing to game. An immediate jump raise of opener's suit is a limit bid, and opener can pass if his opening bid, "was minimum."

Second-round jumps vary depending on whether it is a jump in opener's first or second suit. Consider these auctions:

- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 1) | North | South |
| | 1 ♠ | 1 ♥ |
| | 1 ♠ | 3 ♠ |
| 2) | North | South |
| | 1 ♠ | 1 ♥ |
| | 1 ♠ | 3 ♥ |

In the first example, since the jump is in opener's second suit, it is invitational. In sequence 2, however, where the jump is made in opener's first-bid suit, it is forcing.

However, we have no objection if you prefer the old-fashioned method where all jump bids by responder were forcing. It certainly imposes less of a strain on the memory, and we are reaching the stage where anything that makes life simpler has much to recommend it.

Q—How can I find a good bridge teacher in my area?—G.W., Cambridge, Mass.

A—If you know a bridge club in your area, call it for a recommendation. If you don't know of one or can't find one in your Yellow Pages, most adult education centers in your area should have a bridge course. If you still can't find one, write to:

American Contract Bridge League
P.O. Box 161192
Memphis, Tenn. 38186

Nicaragua restricts movements of foreign military attaches

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The government has tightened controls on foreign military attaches, requiring them to give advance notice of their travel plans, a U.S. embassy official says.

A copy of the new rules was obtained Thursday by the Associated Press and U.S. embassy Press Attache Alberto Fernandez confirmed the embassy had received a copy.

Mr. Fernandez said the United States might reciprocate by making similar requirements of officials of Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government stationed in Washington.

The United States backs contra rebels who are fighting the Nicaraguan government.

According to new rules, military attaches must inform the Defence Ministry in writing 48 hours in advance of any travel plans, including the purpose of the trip, the itinerary, the type and license plate number of the vehicle used and the names of people accompanying the attaché.

Only the United States, France and Venezuela have full-time military attaches in their embassies in Managua. Other countries have attaches accredited to the Nicaraguan government who live elsewhere in the region.

These attaches must advise the Defence Ministry eight days in advance of their intention to visit Nicaragua, according to the new rules.

The attaches, their office workers and family members must inform the Defence Ministry of their intention to leave Nicaragua before they can depart, the rules say.

An official of the Nicaraguan Defence Ministry, Pedro Leonardo Vigil, refused to comment on the rules, saying they were meant only for the military attaches and not for public distribution.

Meanwhile a Nicaraguan rebel leader predicted Thursday that other Central American nations will go to war with Nicaragua's Sandinista government unless it abandons its "totalitarian" system.

Arturo Cruz, a former Sandinista official who now is one of three directors of the rebels' United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO), said he believes a regional conflict will erupt if the Nicaraguan government does not "change to become democratic."

The five other Central American nations, however, have shown little willingness to confront the Sandinistas militarily.

In an interview with the Associated Press, Cruz acknowledged that a unified Central American military strike against Nicaragua is hampered by traditional rivalries between the U.S.-backed governments of El Salvador and Honduras and the absence of an army in Costa Rica.

But he said that an eventual military confrontation between Central American states and Nicaragua "is my political forecast, that in the final analysis... that will happen."

"Either (the Sandinistas) change to become democratic or they will face a confrontation with the rest of Central America... The real struggle going on (in Central America) is between the centre and the totalitarian left."

Cruz, who is considered a moderate among contra leaders, first made that prediction in an interview published in this month's issue of the "Ripon forum," a magazine of the Republican Ripon Society.

Peruvian military to try general

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The supreme court has ruled that a military court, not a civilian one, should try a general accused of ordering the killings of 121 guerrilla inmates who surrendered after a prison riot, a court spokesman said.

The ruling means it is unlikely the public will learn whether army Gen. Jorge Rabanal is found guilty or innocent.

The decision resolved a conflict that flared when a military tribunal began proceedings against Gen. Rabanal in July after a civilian judge ordered his arrest and trial.

Vicente Nisizaka Mejia, spokesman for Peru's highest court, told the Associated Press on Thursday the court also ruled that Paramilitary Republican Guard police accused of killing 121 inmates who had surrendered during a riot at Lurigancho prison on June 19 would also be tried.

The supreme court said in its ruling that a military tribunal should try Gen. Rabanal because President Alan Garcia had placed the armed forces in charge of retaking control of the prisons.

Bolivia declares state of siege to quell labour unrest

LA PAZ (R) — Bolivia's centre-right government has declared a 90-day state of siege to quell labour unrest over austerity policies and warned it could use force to disperse a protest march by thousands of miners.

Interior Minister Fernando Barthelemy told reporters Thursday night that authorities arrested 162 people Thursday in connection with what he called a subversive plan against the government.

He said no more than 100 would remain under arrest and they would be sent to an unspecified part of the country. He did not elaborate.

The minister said one policeman and one student were wounded when dynamite exploded during a demonstration in the central city of Sucre, but said no more violent incident occurred during the day.

Information Minister Herman Antelo told reporters Thursday the government urged the miners, ringed by tanks and soldiers during their protest, to return

home. The siege banned all demonstrations and marches, suspended freedom of travel and imposed a midnight-to-dawn curfew.

The government warned it could use force if the miners refused to disperse from Calama, on the windswept Andean plateau 80 kilometres from here.

The miners had hoped to launch a hunger strike in La Paz to protest at government plans to reduce state mining operations.

The siege declaration was followed by mass arrests of labour leaders Thursday morning. The independent newspaper Última Hora said over 200 labour leaders were arrested.

Helmeted police in combat gear took over the headquarters of the leftist-led Bolivian Labour Confederation (COB). Its chiefs went into hiding to avoid arrest, a spokesman said.

The COB led a two-day general strike last week to back miners' demands and press for the

Three escape to West Berlin through hail of E. German bullets

BERLIN (AP) — A truck driver swerving through a hail of East German bullets escaped across the Berlin wall early Friday, as his woman companion and a young child muddled on the floor below the windshield, police said.

The three escaped from East Berlin without injury in the 12:05 a.m. (2205 GMT Thursday) escape at the checkpoint Charlie crossing, according to police duty officer Guenter Gadaschewski.

Gadaschewski said East German guards fired at least three shots at the speeding vehicle, a 7.5 ton East German truck filled with gravel.

Police said that when an automatic barrier came down in front of the truck the driver swerved and careened into a neighbouring lane used by traffic coming from West Berlin into East Berlin to make his escape.

The entire escape took between five and 10 seconds, according to police.

Police said they would return the truck to East German authorities, but no definite time was given.

Gadaschewski said the driver of the truck continued speeding away from the wall after crossing into the West, and did not stop until he was nearly 1 kilometre (about half a mile) into West Berlin.

Chirac ready to talk with Kanaks

NOUMEA (R) — New French right-wing Prime Minister Jacques Chirac Friday offered to open talks here or in Paris with the separatist movement in France's troubled territory of New Caledonia, a separatist leader said.

Jean-Marie Tjibaou, leader of the pro-independence Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FNLSK), told reporters after meeting Mr. Chirac there was nothing new on the political front.

"We know what the government's position is. What is new is that he is ready to start talks," Mr. Tjibaou added.

"We still have an adversary but not an enemy. The discussion remains open."

Mr. Chirac held talks with the FNLSK leader shortly after he arrived in the Pacific French

territory Friday for a two-day visit.

Mr. Tjibaou said neither side had judged on who should or should not vote in the new government's planned referendum on independence which it has said would be held by July 1987.

FLNKS wants the poll to be restricted to indigenous Melanesians and possibly extended to descendants of white convicts and political refugees forced to settle in the territory.

The government has argued that under the constitution any resident of over six months has the right to vote, a move that would certainly ensure a continued association with France.

But Mr. Chirac, whose Overseas Territory Minister Bernard Pons took an

anti-separatist hard line during a visit in May, is believed to favour moves to bridge the animosity between the majority settlers and the indigenous Melanesians who make up the 145,000 population, official sources said.

Mr. Chirac, who has five ministers with him, also met leaders of the four regional councils in the Pacific territory after a warm airport welcome by a mainly loyalist crowd.

The French leader said in a radio interview broadcast here that a number of economic and political problems must be resolved.

There has been little sign of trouble in the territory, about 1,500 kilometre east of Australia, since ethnic violence erupted in late 1984 and early 1985 when more than 20 people were killed.

Police said the truck sped on past a West Berlin police check and raced off into the city without stopping. The escapees later reported to officials here.

A Reuters journalist crossing from West to East shortly after the escape found the lorry had apparently smashed down at least two barriers before it hit the gates.

The first steel barrier at the entrance to the Eastern side of the checkpoint, where guards make an initial passport check, had been uprooted from its mounting.

Paper urges U.S. to aid family planning

NEW YORK (R) — The United States should aid family planning programmes in China and other Third World countries instead of cutting back funds under pressure from anti-abortion "zealots," the New York Times said Friday.

"The enlightened thing for America to do is help such countries conduct humane family planning," the newspaper said in an editorial.

"What it has just done instead is petulantly stamp its foot and close its purse to the two most effective international agencies."

The newspaper was referring to the withdrawal of U.S. support for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, which works in China, and for International Planned Parenthood last year.

"China reputedly coerces abortions, and some zealous Americans don't believe China when it denies that," the newspaper said. "Thus the zealots have pressed the Reagan Administration to stop contributing to all the agency's work."

The editorial suggested that "if there are Americans who believe China coerces abortion, what better way to discourage it than by facilitating humane family planning."

Meanwhile the U.N. Fund for Population Activities said Thursday it would continue to help 134 developing countries, despite a U.S. Government decision to withhold its \$25 million contribution this year.

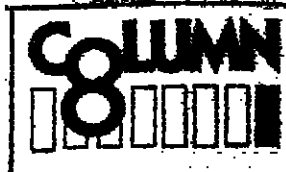
The fund (UNFPA) said Washington's move had been anticipated and had largely been offset by increased contributions from other donors totalling some \$20 million.

The U.S. decision, made known Thursday by congressional sources, was based on the fund's support for China's one-child-per-family programme, which is alleged to involve forced abortions and other coercive birth control policies.

The United States withheld \$10 million of its scheduled \$46 million contribution last year because of the fund's activities in China.

In its statement, the fund said, "UNFPA operations will continue to service 134 developing countries in their population programmes without disruption."

In 1986, UNFPA's annual budget will be \$131 million without the U.S. contribution."



Dog returns home after 2 years' absence

TEL AVIV (AP) — Duke was always ripe for adventure, so when he wandered away from home two years ago his family thought he was just out on the town. As the weeks and months passed, however, they despaired of his return. But several days ago, the German shepherd came knocking.

"We thought he was lost forever," said Thursday 15-year-old Gil Rash. "Dogs just don't come home after such a long time." The veterinarian who checked Duke had tears in his eyes. He said he never heard of a dog that came home after so long.

Rash added, Rash grew up with the eight-year-old canine. "We live on 10th floor, so Duke used to open the door and go downstairs" and wander out. "But he always came back in the morning," Rash said.

Police charge couple with adultery

CORNING, New York (AP) — A couple allegedly caught in bed by the woman's husband face up to three months in jail after they were charged with adultery under a 77-year-old law, authorities say. Bettie J. Lundergan, 25, and Douglas Gray, 22, were charged Tuesday. Ms. Lundergan also was charged with harassment; Gray was charged with second-degree endangerment and third-degree assault stemming from a scuffle with 27-year-old Mark Lundergan. Gray and Ms. Lundergan were released on their own recognizance. Lundergan said he shares a home with his wife. Adultery has been a crime in New York state since 1909 and the current law dates to 1967, said state attorney general's spokesman Nathan Riley. According to court records, Lundergan returned home just after midnight Friday and found the front screen door locked. Going to the back door, he heard "moaning and noises" from the second-floor bedroom, according to the records. He cut through the front door screen and entered the house, where he allegedly found his wife and Gray engaged in intercourse, and snapped several photos.

Caroline involved in car accident

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — Prince Caroline drove into a parapet last week, slightly damaging her car, only 200 metres from the spot where her mother crashed four years ago. Palace spokesman Nadia Lacoste said Caroline "was a little shaken up at the time, but recovered quickly. The princess was very surprised that anybody is aware of the accident," Miss Lacoste said when asked about press reports of a crash. Caroline was alone in her car en route to her country residence in this Mediterranean principality when she was blinded by the bright lights of an oncoming vehicle. She pulled sharply to the right and banged into a parapet, damaging the fender of the automobile. The princess' mother, Princess Grace, died three days after a Sept. 14, 1982 car accident.

'Wonder woman' jumps to rescue husband

FRANKLIN, New Jersey (AP) — Nancy Grbac, clad only in her pajamas, hurried to the rescue of her husband James when she saw three men assaulting him on the street below their balcony. Her daring dive drove them off, police said. "No other woman wouldn't do the same thing to save her husband," said the 33-year-old mother whose husband now calls her "wonder woman." Grbac was assaulted by the men as he returned from the supermarket with the couple's 15-month-old son Jonathan, who remained in the car during the incident. The three asked him directions, he said, and began hitting him. He says he had never seen them before and had no idea what it was all about. "They just started beating me. They kicked me to the ground." Inside their second-storey apartment, Mrs. Grbac heard the commotion, looked out the window, steered her resolution, and jumped. "I just unconsciously jumped," she said. "There was nothing else to do. I had to help him." Her head hit some shrubbery and her body hit the pavement, bruising her as the assailants fled, the Grbacs said. After sitting up and shaking her head, she ran after the car to get the licence number. Her husband, who suffered injuries to his face and knee, believes he may have saved his life.